



# MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MARCH 23, 2004

CONTACT:  
MICHELLE MOWERY JOHNSON  
(615) 313-4707 / OFFICE  
(615) 272-0845 / PAGER

## **CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS CONTINUE TO RISE**

FEBRUARY FIGURES SHOW MORE TENNESSEE CHILDREN RECEIVING SUPPORT

NASHVILLE, Tenn.— The Tennessee Department of Human Services collected nearly five million more dollars in child support in February 2004 than in February 2003. More than \$31 million were collected for Tennessee children versus \$26.6 million from the same period last year.

Human Services' Child Support Division and its child support offices across the state have increased collections so far this state fiscal year by more than 13% over last state fiscal year. From July 2003 through February 2004, more than \$255 million in child support payments were collected. During that same period last year, \$225 million in payments were collected.

The child support office in Knoxville has seen the largest increase thus far this state fiscal year. Collections in Knox County are up more than 38% over last year's figures. The office there has collected more than \$13 million in support for children so far this state fiscal year. The child support office in the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, which covers Wilson, Jackson, Macon, Smith and Trousdale Counties has seen an increase in collections by more than 23%.

Collections have been increasing steadily for several years. The increase in collections can be attributed in large part to enforcement tools, such as administrative wage assignments, liens, license revocation, tax intercept, modification of support orders and passport denials.

The number of child support cases with orders is also on the rise. Without orders, there would be no child support payment. This figure is up 4.25% in February 2004 over February 2003. There are currently 219,000 cases with support orders. The Child Support Division and its partners are working to establish orders for those children without existing orders. Identifying and finding the missing parent and verifying paternity are keys to establishing orders.

For more information on the Child Support Program, visit the Department of Human Services website at: <http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/child-support.htm>

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CITIZENS PLAZA, 15TH FLOOR  
400 DEADERICK STREET  
NASHVILLE, TN 37248  
615.313.4700